<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of the claims will replace all previous listings of the claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for straight through processing of trades by electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between <u>a plurality of price providers</u> at least one price provider which <u>provide</u> provides price quotes for trading financial instruments and <u>execute</u> executes trades and a plurality of customers of the <u>plurality of price providers</u> price provider through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein <u>at least two</u> each of the plurality of electronic portals <u>are adapted to use</u> may use one of multiple different <u>standardized</u> portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has access to communicate with the <u>plurality of price providers</u> price provider, the method comprising:
          linking each of <u>the</u> [[a]] plurality of electronic portals and <u>the plurality of price providers</u> a price provider to a central transit point through which data from all of the plurality of electronic portals is transmitted;
          receiving customer data from each of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the customer data is received in a <u>first standardized portal-specific</u> format specific <u>corresponding</u> to <u>the</u> [[a]] particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals through which <u>the customer data</u> [[it]] is received;
          normalizing the received<u>, standardized</u> data from the <u>first standardized</u> portal-specific format in which the data is received into a <u>second</u> standardized format, if the <u>first standardized</u> portal-specific format is different from the <u>second</u> standardized format; and
          transmitting the normalized data through the central transit point to <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider, if the central transit point is not at the price provider.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the central transit point is at one of a central router, <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider, <u>or</u> [[and]] a credit intermediary.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data comprises at least one of a request for a price quote, an instruction to execute a trade, a recap of details of the trade, <u>or</u> [[and]] a free-format text-based conversation.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of normalizing the data further comprises converting the data from a portal-specific communication protocol in which the data is received into a standardized communication protocol.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the data comprises providing the data to <u>at least one of</u> the <u>plurality of price providers</u> price provider in the <u>second</u> standardized format.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving further data from <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider that is directed to a particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals, and translating the further data from the <u>second</u> standardized format into a portal-specific format used by the particular portal through which the further data is to be sent, if the portal-specific format is different from the <u>second</u> standardized format.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the data comprises a customer request by a customer for a price quote and the further data comprises a price quote sent in response to the request, and wherein the method further comprises transmitting the price quote to the customer via the portal from which the price quote request was received.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the price quote is provided by one of a trader at <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers or</u> the price provider and an automated pricing engine at <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider for automatically providing the price quotes.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting an instruction <u>to proceed with a trade</u> from the customer to <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider in response to the price quote to proceed with a trade, whereupon the <u>respective</u> price provider fulfills the trade at the price quote.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 <u>claim 1</u>, further comprising electronically sending a customer who has executed a trade <u>an electronic confirmation via the portal through which the customer data was received, the electronic confirmation including</u> details of the trade through the first portal.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving the trade details at <u>one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
        receiving a second request for a second price quote from a second customer that is sent through a second <u>portal</u> of the plurality of electronic portals in a second <u>third</u> standardized portal-specific format that is different from the first <u>standardized</u> portal-specific format;
        normalizing the second request from the second <u>third standardized</u> portal-specific format in which it is received into the <u>second</u> standardized format;
        transmitting the second request to <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> the price provider in the <u>second</u> standardized format;
        transmitting a second price quote from the <u>one of the plurality of price providers</u> price provider to the second customer who requested the second price quote through the second electronic portal; and
        transmitting an instruction from the first customer to the price provider <u>providing</u> in response to the first price quote to proceed with a trade, whereupon the price provider <u>providing the first price quote</u> fulfills the trade at the first price quote.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising withdrawing the second price quote by the price provider providing [[of]] the second price quote by one of manually entering an instruction to withdraw the second price quote or [[and]] providing a system for automatically withdrawing the second price quote at a particular point based on specific criteria.

15.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
        receiving the normalized data at one of the plurality of price providers the price provider; and
        simultaneously displaying on a single display at the respective price provider the received data exchanged with at least two of the plurality of electronic portals on a single display.

16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising using the data on the display to determine at the respective [[a]] price provider whether to make a price quote based on criteria comprising at least one of exposure of the respective price provider to market risk, a credit risk associated with the second customer, a trade position of the respective price provider, or [[and]] a marketplace-specific factor.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the data from the at least two electronic portals are simultaneously displayed in separate windows on the display but with a substantially identical graphical user interface for each of the windows.

18.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein each portal utilizes a respective portal-specific graphical user interface, and wherein the method further comprises comprising displaying the data from the at least two electronic portals simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and providing a set of uniform commands for interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

19.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a separate gateway corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected between internal systems at each of the plurality of electronic portals and the central transit point, and wherein the step of normalizing the data is performed at the respective gateway corresponding to [[for]] the portal from which the data originated.

20.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a central router comprising a separate gateway at the central router corresponding to [[for]] each of the plurality of electronic portals, the normalizing of data being performed at each respective gateway.

21.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a ~~separate~~ gateway at <u>each of the plurality of price providers corresponding to</u> ~~the price provider for~~ each of the plurality of electronic portals, the normalizing of data being performed at the respective gateways ~~for the plurality of electronic portals~~.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising linking a credit intermediary of a customer to the central transit point.

23.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> ~~the price provider~~ comprises ~~at least one of~~ a bank, a financial institution, an exchange, <u>or</u> [[and]] any other trading entity, wherein the customer comprises a commercial entity that wishes to obtain a price quote, and wherein the financial instrument for which the price quote is requested comprises at least one of securities, commodities, options, futures, currency, <u>or</u> [[and]] any other tradable item.

24.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected to a customer by one of a private network, a public network, <u>or</u> [[and]] the Internet.

25.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>the plurality of price providers are</u> ~~the price provider is~~ connected to a Central Router by one of a private network, a public network, <u>or</u> [[and]] the Internet.

26.   (Currently amended) A method for straight through processing of trades by electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between <u>a plurality of price providers</u> ~~at least one price provider~~ which <u>provide</u> ~~provides~~ price quotes for trading financial instruments and <u>execute</u> ~~executes~~ trades and a plurality of customers of the price provider through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein <u>at least two</u> [[each]] of the plurality of electronic portals <u>are adapted to use</u> ~~may use~~ one of multiple different portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer of the plurality of customers may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the particular customer has access to communicate with the price provider, the method comprising:
        linking each of <u>the</u> [[a]] plurality of electronic portals and <u>the plurality of price providers</u> ~~a price provider~~ to a central transit point through which the data is transmitted;
        receiving data from <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> ~~a price provider~~ to be sent to a particular customer through a particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the data is received in a <u>first</u> standardized format;
        translating the received data from the <u>first</u> standardized format ~~in which the data is received~~ into a <u>second standardized</u> portal-specific format, if the <u>second standardized</u> portal-specific format is different from the <u>first</u> standardized format; and
        transmitting the data in the <u>second standardized</u> portal-specific format through the central transit point to the particular customer.

27.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the central transit point is at one of the central router, at least one of the plurality of price providers the price provider, or [[and]] a credit intermediary.

28.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 claim 26, wherein the data comprises at least one of a price quote, a recap of details of the trade, or [[and]] a free-format text-based conversation.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of translating the data further comprises converting the data from a standardized communication protocol in which the data is received into a portal-specific communication protocol.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the data comprises a price quote, and wherein the method further comprises comprising receiving an instruction from the particular customer to proceed with the trade in response to the price quote, and electronically sending the particular customer details of the trade through the particular portal after a trade is executed.

32.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
        simultaneously displaying the received data exchanged with at least two of the plurality of electronic portals on a single display substantially simultaneously.

33.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising using the data on the display to determine [[at]] by at least one of the plurality of price providers a price provider whether to make a price quote based on criteria comprising at least one of exposure of the respective price provider to market risk, a credit risk associated with the second customer, a trade position of the respective price provider, or [[and]] a marketplace-specific factor.

34.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the data from the at least two customers are simultaneously displayed substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display but with a substantially identical graphical user interface for each of the windows.

35.   (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein each portal utilizes a respective portal-specific graphical user interface, and wherein the method further comprises displaying the data from the at least two electronic portals simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and providing a set of uniform commands for interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

36.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the data comprises a price quote that is provided by one of a trader at <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers or</u> ~~the price provider and~~ an automated pricing engine at the <u>respective</u> price provider for providing the price quotes.

37.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a ~~separate~~ gateway at <u>each of the plurality of price providers corresponding to</u> ~~the price provider for~~ each of the plurality of electronic portals, the translation of data being performed at the respective gateways for <u>each of</u> the plurality of electronic portals.

38.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a central router comprising a ~~separate~~ gateway at the central router <u>corresponding to</u> [[for]] each of the plurality of electronic portals, the translation of data being performed at each respective gateway.

39.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein a ~~separate~~ gateway <u>corresponding to each of the plurality of electronic portals</u> is connected between ~~internal systems at~~ each of the plurality of electronic portals and the central transit point, and wherein the step of translation of the data is performed at the respective gateway for the portal from which the data originated.

40.   (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising linking a credit intermediary of a customer to the central transit point.

41.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein <u>at least one of the plurality of price providers</u> ~~the price provider~~ comprises at least one of a bank, a financial institution, an exchange, <u>or</u> [[and]] any other trading entity, wherein the particular customer comprises a commercial entity that wishes to obtain a price quote, and wherein the financial instrument for which the price quote is requested comprises at least one of securities, commodities, options, futures, currency, <u>or</u> [[and]] any other tradable item.

42.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals is connected to a customer by one of a private network, a public network, <u>or</u> [[and]] the Internet.

43.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein <u>the plurality of price providers are</u> ~~the price provider is~~ connected to a Central Router by one of a private network, a public network, <u>or</u> [[and]] the Internet.

44.   (Currently amended) A system for electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between a plurality of price providers which provides price quotes for trading financial instruments and executes trades and a plurality of customers of the price provider through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein [[each]] at least two of the plurality of electronic portals are adapted to use may-use one of multiple different standardized portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has access to communicate with the price provider, the system comprising:

     a plurality of gateways, each gateway being linked to a corresponding different one of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the gateways translate data received from any of the plurality of electronic portals from a respective first standardized portal-specific format to a second standardized format, and for translating data received in the second standardized format from the price provider to the respective first standardized portal-specific format of the particular portal of the plurality of electronic portals to which the data is routed and

     a central transit point that links the gateways to the price provider and through which the normalized data is transmitted to the price provider.

45.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the data that is exchanged between the price provider and the customers comprises at least one of a customer request for a price quote for a trade, a price quote provided by the price provider, a message relating to negotiation of a price for a trade between the customer and the price provider, an instruction to complete the trade, a trade detail data, or [[and]] free-format text-based conversation.

46.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, further comprising a display at the price provider for simultaneously displaying substantially simultaneously the data exchanged with at least two of the electronic portals.

47.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the display comprises a graphical user interface for displaying data from the at least two electronic portals substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display, at least two of the windows having a substantially identical user interface.

48.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of electronic portals utilizes a respective portal-specific graphical user interface, wherein the system displays the data from the at least two electronic portals substantially simultaneously in separate windows on the display using the respective graphical user portal-specific interfaces, and wherein the system further comprises a set of uniform commands for interacting with the at least two electronic portals despite the different graphical user interfaces.

49.   (Original) The system of claim 44, further comprising an application program interface for presenting data in a normalized format to an internal computer system of the price provider.

8

50.   (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the internal computer system comprises an automated pricing engine that automatically generates a price quote in response to a request.

51.   (Original) The system of claim 44, further comprising an application program interface for presenting data in a normalized format to an internal computer system of a credit intermediary that extends credit to a customer.

52.   (New) A system for electronically exchanging data related to financial transactions between a plurality of price providers which provide price quotes for trading financial instruments and execute trades and a plurality of customers of the plurality of price providers through a plurality of electronic portals, wherein at least two of the plurality of electronic portals are adapted to use multiple different standardized portal-specific data formats, and wherein a particular customer may use any of the plurality of electronic portals to which the customer has access to communicate with the plurality of price providers, the system comprising:
        a first gateway located at a first price provider, the first gateway adapted to communicate with each of the plurality of electronic portals using the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the first gateway translates data received in the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to a standardized format of the first price provider and translates data received in the standardized format of the first price provider to the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data from the first price provider is routed; and
        a second gateway located at a second price provider, the second gateway adapted to communicate with each of the plurality of electronic portals using the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the second gateway translates data received in the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to a standardized format of the second price provider and translates data received in the standardized format of the second price provider to the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data from the second price provider is routed.

53.   (New) The system of claim 52, further comprising:
        a third gateway located at a credit intermediary, the third gateway adapted to communicate with each of the plurality of electronic portals using the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal of the plurality of electronic portals, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to a standardized format of the credit intermediary and translates data received in the standardized format of the credit intermediary to the standardized portal-specific format of each respective electronic portal to which the data from the credit intermediary is routed.

54.   (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the third gateway is adapted to transmit data received from the first price provider, the second price provider, or both to the credit intermediary.

55.   (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the standardized format of the first price provider or data received in the standardized format of the second price provider to the standardized format of the credit intermediary.

56.   (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the third gateway is adapted to transmit data received from the credit intermediary to the first price provider, the second price provider or both.

57.   (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the third gateway translates data received in the standardized format of the credit intermediary into the respective standardized format of the price provider to which the data is routed.